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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant - Ronald J. Schnipke et al. :
Serial No. - 10/747,940 :
Filed - 12/30/2003 :
For - Pallet for Surgical Stapling : Group Art Unit: 3725
Cartridge :

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: ATTN: Certificate of Correction Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12-21-05.

Cheryl Gasaway
Cheryl Gasaway

Certificate

DEC 29 2005

of Correction

ATTN: Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Applicant's attorney has noted that mistakes appear in U.S. Patent No. 6,973,770 that occurred through the fault of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The errors appear to be due to typographical errors that change the meaning of the claims. It is therefore requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office correct their mistake and issue a Certificate of Correction pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §254 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.322.

The affected claims showing the changes noted thereon are shown below, and a copy of completed form PTO/SB/44 is enclosed herewith.

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1 10. A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as drivers are
2 inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for ~~searing~~seating on a conveyor;

4 (b) an elongated slot formed in an upper surface of the base for holding the
5 cartridge;

6 (c) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first
7 side of the slot, said first lip member being biased toward the slot and having a lip
8 extending into the slot;

9 (d) a second cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a
10 second side of the slot, said second lip member being biased toward the slot and
11 having a lip extending into the slot;

12 (e) a gap formed between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive
13 a tongue inserted upwardly through an aperture in the base, for seating against
14 opposing surfaces of the lip members and displacing the lip members away from
15 the slot; and

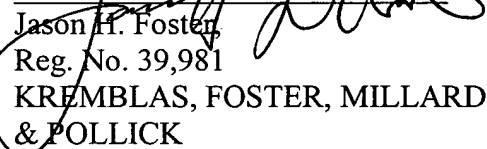
16 (f) a finger mounted to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger
17 extending upwardly from the base for seating within a recess of said cartridge.

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- 1 11. The pallet in accordance with claim 10, further comprising first and second chambers
2 formed in the base on the first and second sides of the slot, respectively, said first and
3 second chambers housing the first and second lip members, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

21 Dec. 2005
Date of Signature


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Our File No.: SNPKX 108 DIV 1

Enclosures: Return receipt postcard
Completed form PTO/SB/44

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 6,973,770

APPLICATION NO.: 10/747,940

ISSUE DATE : 12/13/2005

INVENTOR(S) : Ronald J. Schnipke et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Claim 10, line 4, add --seating--, delete "searing"

Claim 11, line 2, insert --the-- between "on" and "first"

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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